("Barron") and US 5,567,509 ("Gautier"). Office Action, pages 8-10. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Examiner acknowledges that Wood fails to teach or suggest "a plurality of melt channels in the top and bottom half". Office Action, page 7. This is a reference to the requirement in Applicants' claims of a plurality of melt supply channels disposed in the top half of the mold and a plurality of melt supply channels disposed in the bottom half of the mold to operatively communicate with the annular mold cavity. The Examiner argues that Johnson makes it obvious to modify the Wood technology by providing a plurality of melt supply channels therein "in order to reduce the distance the rapidly curing resin needed to travel." Office Action, page 7.

As can be seen from Exhibits A and B enclosed herewith, ***the flow distances contemplated by the present invention are exactly the same as the flow distances taught in the Wood reference.*** The Examiner has thus shown no reasonable motivation or reason to reduce the flow distances in the Wood technology. Accordingly, it would not be obvious to modify the Wood technology in view of the Johnson teachings.

Exhibit C enclosed herewith shows the Johnson technology. It is apparent that the type of molding with which Johnson is concerned is completely different from the type of molding with which Wood and Applicants are concerned. The distances and resin flow channel links in Johnson suggest nothing about the distances and resin flow in the present invention. It is noted that in Johnson, the resin inlets are identified by reference numerals 21, 32, 42, and 51. The Examiner has failed to explain how that disclosure in Johnson makes it obvious to modify, for instance, the mold of Wood's Figure 4 to include – in addition to nozzle 26 – inlet ports 41 and 43 as shown in Applicants' Figure 5B.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejections as currently stated by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are not sustainable, at least as they are currently stated.

Double patenting rejections

Claims 7-18 stand rejected on the ground of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-20 of US 6,537,470 B1 ("Wood U.S.") in view of Johnson. Office Action, pages 2-3. Claim 15, however, has been cancelled. Claim 19 stands rejected on the ground obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-20 of Wood U.S. in view of Johnson, Barron, and Gautier. Office Action, page 4. Claims 7-18 stand rejected on the ground of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 5-17 of US 7,025,913 ("La Forest"). Office Action, pages 4-5. Claim 15 has been cancelled. Claim 19 stands rejected on the ground obviousness-type double patenting over claims 5-17 of La Forest in view of Barron and Gautier. Office Action, pages 5-6. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicants' claims require a plurality of melt supply channels disposed in the top half of the mold and a plurality of melt supply channels disposed in the bottom half of the mold to operatively communicate with the annular mold cavity. The Examiner has not demonstrated that the present claims differ from claims 1-20 of Wood U.S. or claims 5-17 of La Forest by only obvious differences.

Accordingly, withdrawal of all four of the above double patenting rejections is in order and is earnestly solicited.

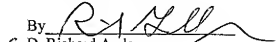
Contact information

If there are any questions concerning this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Richard Gallagher (Reg. No. 28,781) at (703) 205-8008.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: July 30, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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Enclosures:
Exhibit A (Wood's Figure 4);
Exhibit B (Applicants' Figure 5B); and
Exhibit C (Johnson's Figure).

EXHIBIT A – Figure 4 of US 6,537,470 B1

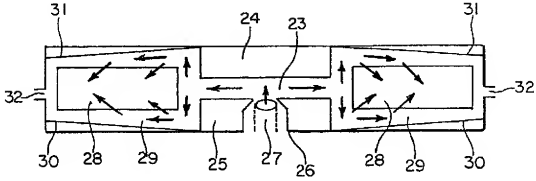

FIG. 4

EXHIBIT B – Figure 5B of Serial No. 10/785,548

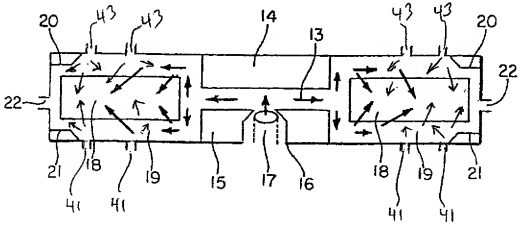

Fig. 5B

EXHIBIT C – the sole Figure of US 5,045,251